1180. The water of the famous "Amrithasarovara" was made use of on the Hills. Visitors were provided with comforts and conveniences and vegetarian and non-vegetarian hotels were maintained throughout the year. Arrangements were made to get daily supply of fresh vegetables and fruits from Bangalore. A Dispensary, a Sub-Post Office and Police Outpost functioned from 15th March to 15th July 1952. The leading newspapers were subscribed and facilities were provided for indoor and outdoor games. Free musical entertainments and lectures were arranged.

Sri Krishnarajendra Hill Station, Kemmangundi.

1181. Constant attention was bestowed to maintain the garden clean and attractive and to enhance its beauty, several new beds were laid out and planted. Vanamahotsava was observed and plantings were made by all the Ministers of the ex-Cabinet in the month of February 1952.

1182. The administrative control of the Bee-keeping Section was transferred to the Department of Horticulture from the Department of Animal Husbandry with effect from 1st April 1951. The Section took an active part in the two Horticultural Shows and the Mysore Dasara Exhibition by demonstrating the improved methods of bee-keeping and scientific and hygienic methods of honey extractions. There were many enquiries for the supply of hives and pure honey during the year.

1183. The total revenue of the Department for the year was Rs. 39,343 (Rs. 37,932).

(vi) Stores Purchase Committee.

1184. The value of orders placed (including the Annual Rate Contracts) with firms in India amounted to about Rs. 1,54,29,682 (Rs. 1,31,81,398). The value of orders placed with firms in Foreign countries amounted to Rs. 70,81,914 (Rs. 54,93,380). The total value of all purchases arranged by the Stores Purchase Committee both from firms in India and in Foreign countries during the year amounted to Rs. 2,25,11,596 as against Rs. 1,86,74,778 during the previous year. The increase in the value of prices was partly due to the increased indents from Departments like the Electrical, Government Electric Factory, Soap Factory, Government Silk Factory, Public Works Department, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS

1185. Due to armament and stock-piling programmes of various countries the number of ex-stock offers from those countries were very few and there was a marked tendency towards increased prices and delays in delivery. For the same reason, the price of non-ferrous metals was also on the increase and the supply position was uncertain. Certain essential chemicals like Sulphate of Alumina became comparatively scarce and their prices compared to the ruling prices last year were very high.

1186. The prices quoted by Foreign Firms were only tentative subject to change at the time of actual shipment.

1187. Since the Mysore Railway was integrated with the Government of India, the services of Messrs. Rendel Palmer and Tritton, Consulting Engineers, were not utilised. The Inspecting Staff of the Industries and Commerce Department inspected the articles of local manufacturers, such as furniture, leather articles, iron safes, etc., required by the Government Departments.

1188. As the services of Messrs. Rendel Palmer and Tritton, Ltd., London, were terminated, no expenses were incurred on behalf of the Stores Purchase Committee.

1189. The expenditure incurred on the establishment, salaries and contingencies including the rent of the Office Building and advertisement charges amounted to Rs. 44,193. The incidence of cost on the total value of all purchases arranged by the Stores Purchase Committee works out to ·20 per cent as against ·23 per cent during the previous year.

Mysore Trade Agent in London and the Clearing Agents in Madras.

1190. Messrs. Best & Co., Ltd., Madras, were the Clearing and Forwarding Agents. The total tonnage of consignments imported and exported by the Agents was 8,140 tons as against 8,466 tons during the previous year. The total expenditure incurred during the year amounted to Rs. 27,71,278 as against Rs. 27,61,697 during the previous year, including customs duty, landing charges, harbour dues, commission and other incidental charges for the transport of the consignments to their respective destinations. Refund of excess customs duty, transit dues, etc., were recovered from the customs authorities during the year to the extent of Rs. 1,23,693 (Rs. 2,30,892).

1191. Thirty-eight firms were included in the list of the approved firms in the office during the year. In addition